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Annual Report

of the

ADJUTANT GENERAL

of the

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

For the Year 1855.

TRENTON, N. J.

TRENTON, N. J.
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ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S REPORT.

ADJUTANT-GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Trenton, N. J., Dec. 31, 1855.

To His Excellency RODMAN M. PRICE, *Governor, Commander-in-Chief, &c., &c.:*

SIR:—I have to report as follows:

By referring to the law of Congress, approved March third, eighteen hundred and fifty-five, it will be seen that the basis of representation has been taken as the guide of apportionment, determining the quota of arms and military supplies assigned to the several states. The necessity, therefore of the act of the legislature of New Jersey, passed March seventeenth, eighteen hundred and fifty-two, is in a measure superseded, and I recommend its repeal, the law being imperfectly executed, and unnecessarily expensive to the state.

The propriety of the general order number four, calling upon all the divisions of the militia to parade at certain convenient times and places, was productive of important results. In at least one-half the divisions, it betrayed neglect, and an entire want of efficient system. With abundant individual spirit, and admirable physical strength everywhere exhibited, the brigades and regiments were found deficient in the necessary organization, and are therefore comparatively useless to the state. It would be unwise to disguise the fact, when war is the topic of the day, and it becomes my duty to recommend to your excellency, the adoption of some salutary measures under our militia law, to ensure the prompt organization of the brigade boards in the several delinquent divisions. Without the regular meetings of these boards, nothing can be done, or will be done, and I would propose towards the accomplishment of this end, that proper encouragement be given to the volunter companies, and in time

of peace, that a small sum, in lieu of militia fines, be assessed, and collected by the civil collectors, from each individual not enrolled in some volunteer company, and liable to perform military service.

This fund, so collected, to be set apart and appropriated exclusively to the support of the brigade boards, and the volunteer companies within the bounds of the brigades to which they belong. We have authority for the rule, that "the laborer is worthy of his hire." The volunteer soldier is worthy of his pay. His time and his services being at the disposal of the state, why should not *his* sacrifices, and *his* actual expenditures, entitle *him* to a reasonable compensation?

The voluntary retirement of some of the ancient and decayed officers, whose long and meritorious past services entitle them to repose, would bring into active service *young blood*, which is the life and efficiency of every branch of military service.

In the distribution of arms, so far as it can be done, I would prefer that the small arms be adapted to the use of the Minnie ball. This weapon is admirably suited to the arming of the militia and light troops, and in a peculiar country like our's, where every American is a marksman, it seems to me that it has been contrived for their special benefit.

The range of the Minnie rifle ball is about to lessen the efficiency of the present light battery, and as we have on hand a supply of six-pounders, I would prefer an application for the twelve-pound long range guns, when they are on hand for distribution.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. CADWALADER,

Adg.-Gen. N. J. M.

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